

Draft Minutes
Governor's Disabilities Advisory Council
May 10, 2006 Teleconference
Native American Room – Governor's Office
Helena, MT 59601

Attendees: Julia Hammerquist, Dustin Hankinson, Bryher Herak (Chair), Mike Mayer (Vice Chair), Joan Miles, Susie McIntyre, Brian Roat, Pattie Scruggs

Absent: Belden Billy, Connie Bremner, William Neisess

Guest: Joe Mathews, Anna Whiting-Sorrell, Gene Haire, Beki Brandborg

Meeting began at 1:05

Bryher Herak – Chair: The council and guest were welcomed to the meeting and introductions were made.

MDC 104 Discussions:

Bryher Herak – Chair: Asked Council members to present their views/response to the letters from the Governor's Office and DPHHS on the MDC high risk housing issue. After individual responses, an open dialogue was encouraged.

Points of Discussion:

- The Criminal Commitment Bill passed by 2003 Legislature – SB0035 influence on MDC population.
- Evaluations and diagnosis are done prior to department recommendations to commit to MDC.
- \$2.5 million appropriated through Long-range building plan - not through general appropriations bill.
- Some believe that the process before and after long-range building plan did not include adequate input from groups representing persons with disabilities - indicating a break down in the process.
- Olmstead issues are involved in MDC high risk housing; however, ensuring a continuum of care is relevant.
- The workgroup developed after 2005 Legislature to discuss the issue consisted of Bernie Franks-Ongoy – MAP, Deborah Swingley – MCDD, Kathie Zeeck – MDC, Jeff Strum – DDP, Anna Whiting-Sorrell – Governor's Office, Representative Christine Kauffman, and two representatives from the DOA.
- Workgroup discussion did include other alternatives to building MDC.
- Disability Services Division (DSD) continues to correspond with other states and experts on high risk behavior populations and how to provide the best and safest service.

- There was thought of community but logistically it made more sense to put it where we already had the staff and resources to provide for those people
- State rules and regulations on how or how not providers can accept clients that could have high risk behaviors impact placement decisions.
- Council invited to participate in next phase of high risk housing construction.
- Council invited to participate in the visioning session for DSD strategic planning.
- Not continuing construction plan would put to many people at risk – Unit 104 is in poor and unsafe condition.
- Consideration that for some, placement in the community is not feasible.
- A continuum of care is important and needed in Montana – this may include services in facilities such as MDC.
- A new building will provide opportunities to separate the vulnerable population from those with aggressive behaviors.
- There are currently 18 people waiting for community services that will be moved out by the end of December at the latest.
- Retrofitting a cottage will have same problems as Unit 104 plus added problem of where to put the clients in the cottage while retrofitting.
- New facility will hold 12-14 clients.
- All Council members are encouraged to visit MDC.

MOTIONS:

Motion was made that, to support the Council Executive Order, no members of the GDAC have anything to do with the planning or design process of the new building. HANKINSON/McIntyre

Roll-call vote: In Favor: Mike, Dustin
Opposed: Julia, Susie, Brian, Patti, Bryher

Motion was defeated

Motion was made to support the decision to build the new facility at MDC.
SCRUGGS/Hammerquist

Roll-call vote: In Favor: Julia, Brian, Patti, Bryher
Opposed: Dustin, Mike, and Susie

Motion was passed.

Other Business:

Sub-Committees:

Medicaid Infrastructure Grant: Barb Kriskovich invited the Council to participate on the Coalition for the Medicaid Infrastructure Grant at the last meeting. The goal of that grant is to support people with disabilities in securing and sustaining competitive employment in an integrated setting. Brian, Dustin, and Patti volunteered for that committee. Bryher asked that one of them act as lead for that sub-committee, Dustin volunteered. Mike expressed concerns that participation on this project could take a long time and dilute the expressed work of Olmstead implementation.

Legislative Committee: to work with Disability Services Division, Joe Mathews, on ideas and language of future legislation that impacts the disability community. Brian and Dustin volunteered for that committee. Dustin will talk with Joe about the Division's vision, keep Brian informed along the way, and report to the committee at the next meeting.

MDC Housing: Brhyer and Julia volunteered to participate in planning and architectural design process.

DSD Strategic Planning: Brian and Julia agreed to participate in long-range planning, SPAM II, with other designated task force members.

Mike Mayer recommended that at the next meeting the Council review language in the executive order. A planning session to develop the goals would be helpful. Council members were asked to review Olmstead Plans disseminated in December and be ready to discuss their thoughts or recommendations. .

Meeting was adjourned at 2:45pm